

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 881

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Last time, I talked a bit about watching movies at the cinema. So this time, I want to ask you: what kind of movies do you most like to watch?

I like watching all genres of movies, but I especially like sci-fi – which means science fiction.

I like to be taken on wild adventures to different worlds, or made to think about what our world will be like in the future.

Do you like sci-fi movies, too? See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 881

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, let's talk about our sense of taste.

We use our tongue for our sense of taste. We usually use it to taste food. We can taste sweet foods like candy and bitter things like medicine. We can taste sour things like lemons and salty things like potato chips. Different parts of our tongue can taste different things.

When we eat food, we are really using two senses at the same time. The nerves in our tongue can tell us a lot about what the food tastes like, but we will need another sense to tell us more about the food. That sense is the sense of smell!

Alright, we'll study that another day. That's it for today, bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 881

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today I will tell you the third part about how potatoes became a worldwide food. Let's begin!

In 1532, the Spanish invasion brought an end to the Inca but not to the cultivation of potatoes. The invaders took tubers (the underground parts of the plant that we call potatoes) across the Atlantic, as they did with other crops such as tomatoes, avocados, and corn, in what historians call the Great Columbian Exchange. For the first time in history, the potato ventured beyond the Americas.

These early Andean varieties had a tough time adjusting to Spain and other parts of mainland Europe. "Day length is very constant across the year in the equatorial region where potatoes first were domesticated, so the potato plant was used to regular days with 12 hours of sunlight," said evolutionary geneticist Hernan A Burbano Roa.

European long summer days confused the potato plant, and tubers didn't grow during the favourable warmer months; instead, they did so in the autumn, too close to the frosty early winter days to survive. The first decades of planting in the Old Continent proved unsuccessful.

But then potatoes found better conditions in Ireland, where a cool but frost-free fall gave the crop enough time to mature after its introduction from Spain in the 1580s.

That's all for today! See you!